

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Community Services Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Commission Meeting May 14, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Laurie Jean Hannon at 5:32 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Present: William Carey, Michael Compare, Judith McKay, Frank Kruglik, Laurie Jean Hannon, and Antoinette McKeon.

Staff: Gerardo Sorkin, Director and Dan Riccio, Jr. (Secretary).

Absent: Walter Heinig, Scott Leamon, and Thomas Balga.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Laurie Jean Hannon made a Motion to accept the Minutes of April 1, 2008, seconded by Michael Compare.

III. Correspondence:

There is none to discuss.

IV. Director's Report:

Community Services Division:

Counseling Services: There is no waiting list for Counseling Services. Anyone calling for services has access to a counselor. An initial appointment should be given within 1 – 2 weeks. An anonymous consumer satisfaction-client survey was sent to Harbor Health, the local mental health authority located in Branford, which we are required to complete every year. The feedback from this report will be helpful to us.

Senior Center: The Town is applying for a \$750,000 Small Cities Grant from the State for expansion and renovations. Over one hundred letters have been received to support the need for these renovations.

As was announced at the last meeting, a new computer room was opened through funding from AT&T and the Chamber of Commerce and is going very well. Free computer classes are now being offered for seniors who want to learn computer skills.

A pasta dinner was held as a fund raiser this month and was very well attended. We heard very positive comments from those who participated.

Project Graduation: A fundraiser was held at the high school on April 29th with Kevin Gilbride, Offensive Coordinator for the New York Giants, as speaker. He is also a former North Haven resident. The fundraiser also featured a Silent Auction. This event raised approximately \$4,000.

Summer Employment: Community Services will continue with this program and will hire five or six youths with special needs during the summer for the Recreation and Community Services departments.

Recreation: This is reported at the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The Summer Brochure is out and activities are planned.

V. Finance Report:

Community Services:

In response to financial questions asked at last month's meeting, information was passed out to the commissioners. These are reports provided by the Finance Office and these comprehensive reports will be made available to the Commission. The reports are helpful in monitoring up-to-date percentages of monies used from the budget. Also, the Recreation Department's proposed budget for next year will have a separate overtime line. Mr. Sorkin answered questions and clarified reasons for several charges in the budget. The Senior Center budget for next year will have a more accurate estimate for the bus maintenance and repair item. The Day Care budget is different because it is supported from a State grant and fees. A report is submitted to us each month.

VI. Old Business:

There is none to discuss.

VII. New Business:

Ms. Hannon would like the final meeting for the Commission to be held on June 10, 2008 and all Board members present approved that date. The Commission does not meet in July and August.

Laurie DePaola, Counselor, will present about counseling services to the Commission on June 10th.

Lauren Montano, Director of the Day Care Center, presented her report to the Commission. She gave some background on the Center and the need for affordable day care in town. The day care has been in operation for thirty years, opening in 1978. The grant today from the Department of Social Services is \$228,639 and the Center is open 51 weeks a year, ten hours a day. Children are accepted on a sliding scale fee based on income and number of children in the family. A second child attending is charged one-half price. Funds are also collected from Care 4 Kids, state subsidy for eligible parents and the grant. The full time pre-school program is a full day nursery school program with learning through play. Pre-school children use the pool twice a week. The center is enrolled in the Child Nutrition program to subsidize meals served to children (breakfast, lunch and snack). A monthly report is required.

The state license and accreditation must be maintained and new staff, after January 2008, must have specific education requirements of a CDA (Child Development Associate) and 12 credits or more. To receive the maximum amount of our grant, all 45 slots must be filled. A financial report is filed monthly along with attendance rosters.

Activities include a Hop-A-Thon which raised \$200 for the MDA and a field trip to the Vo-Ag Fair at Lyman Hall on May 21st.

Ms. Montano recently completed a week long course (Admin. /Leadership) to be applied toward CT Director's credentialing.

VIII. Public Participation:

NHTV was present.

Town resident, Mr. Wexler of Windsor Road wanted to acknowledge that it was good to see that the Commission has made some positive changes since last year. He had some questions on the interpretation of the Ordinance and the ethical role of different parties involved in the recruitment process for the position of Director. A discussion was held on how the final decision was reached. In conclusion, Ms. Hannon felt that the Commission is satisfied with the final decision and they are ready to move forward.

IX. Adjournment:

Laurie Jean Hannon made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Michael Compare. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.